

What is claimed is:

1. A device for gasifying a sterilizing liquid comprising a hot air duct having an inlet at one end thereof and an outlet at the other end thereof, a hot air source for supplying to the inlet hot air having a temperature capable of gasifying the sterilizing liquid, means for spraying the sterilizing liquid into the hot air duct, and a heat generator disposed as opposed to the outlet.
- 10 2. A sterilizing liquid gasifying device according to claim 1 wherein at least the outlet of the hot air duct and the heat generator are surrounded by a closed gasifying tank, and the gasifying tank has a gas discharge opening on one side of the outlet in the tank opposite to the heat generator on the other side of the outlet.
- 15 3. A sterilizing liquid gasifying device according to claim 2 wherein the hot air duct has a vertical inner duct portion extending through a top wall of the gasifying tank into the tank and having an open lower end providing the outlet, and the gasifying tank has a vertical outer duct portion surrounding the inner duct portion to form a double duct structure along with the inner duct portion and having an open upper end

providing the discharge opening, the ratio of the cross sectional area of the inner duct portion to the cross sectional area of a portion between the inner duct portion and the outer duct portion being 1 to 2.

5 4. A sterilizing liquid gasifying device according to claim 3 wherein the heat generator is a plate heater disposed on a bottom wall of the gasifying tank so as to be orthogonal to the inner duct portion.

5 5. A sterilizing liquid gasifying device according
10 to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the hot air has a temperature of at least 300° C.

6 6. A sterilizing liquid gasifying device according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the spraying means has a spray nozzle with an orifice positioned within the
15 hot air duct, and the orifice has a diameter of 0.5 mm to 3 mm.

7 7. A sterilizing liquid gasifying device according to claim 6 wherein the spray nozzle is of the two fluid type, and the hot air is supplied at not lower than five
20 times the rate of supply of air to the spray nozzle.